

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour
and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 3874—Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments
H.Con.Res. 208—Sense of Congress Regarding Affordable Housing
H.R. 3249—Federal Retirement Coverage Corrections Act
H.R. 4058—War Risk Insurance Reauthorization Act
**H.Con.Res. 298—Expressing Condolences to the State and People of
Florida for the Losses Suffered as a Result of Recent Wildfires**
H.Res. 392—Expressing the Importance of Japanese-American Relations
H.Con.Res. 301—Affirming the U.S. Commitment to Taiwan
H.R. 1689—Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act
H.R. 8—Border Smog Reduction Act
H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act (Continue Consideration)



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following nine bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 3874—Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Amendments extends expiring program authorizations for the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), Summer Food Service program, assistance for state administrative expenses, and commodity assistance through FY 2003. The bill also makes several improvements in federal child nutrition programs to enhance their effectiveness in providing nutrition services to program participants. H.R. 3874 increases flexibility for state and local providers, expands nutrition services in after-school care programs in order to reduce juvenile crime, drug, and alcohol abuse, and teen pregnancy, and reduces program fraud and abuse in the

WIC program. CBO estimates that enactment of the bill will result in \$3.9 billion for FY 1999 and \$19.6 billion over the next five years. The bill was introduced by Mr. Castle and Mr. Riggs and was reported by the Education & the Workforce Committee by a vote of 36-1.

H.Con.Res. 208—Sense of Congress Regarding Affordable Housing expresses the sense of Congress that the priorities of the U.S. should include providing access to affordable housing that is safe, clean, and healthy and expanding homeownership opportunities. The resolution also expresses that these goals should be pursued through policies that (1) promote the ability of the private sector to produce affordable housing without excessive government regulations, (2) encourage tax incentives, such as the mortgage interest deduction, at all levels of government, and (3) facilitate the availability of capital for homeownership and housing production. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Lazio *et al.* and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 3249—Federal Retirement Coverage Corrections Act rectifies retirement coverage errors affecting federal employees that occurred on or after January 1, 1984. Specifically, the bill permits federal employees who were mistakenly covered by either the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), CSRS-Offset, the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS), or Social Security-Only to switch to his or her proper retirement coverage—from CSRS to FERS, for example. The bill also allows federal employees mistakenly covered by either the FERS or the CSRS to retain the same coverage if they wish. In addition, H.R. 3249 (1) requires the agencies responsible for the coverage errors to bear the cost of making up lost earnings on employees' Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts; (2) stipulates that agencies involved must make all necessary payments from appropriated funds; and (3) amends the Social Security Act to allow CSRS-eligible employees to receive Social Security benefits. The bill was introduced by Mr. Mica on February 24, 1998; the Government Reform & Oversight Committee reported the bill by voice vote on June 25, 1998.

H.R. 4058—War Risk Insurance Reauthorization Act reauthorizes the Aviation Insurance Program (AIP) for an additional five years through December 31, 2003; the program's existing authorization expires on December 31, 1998. In addition, the measure clarifies that an insured party may purchase an additional insurance policy from a third party under which the third party would, in the event of a claim, reimburse the insured party immediately and then seek reimbursement from the federal government. Such a contract will allow parties insured under the aviation insurance program to be assured of immediate reimbursement for any claims. CBO estimates that enactment will likely have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Shuster *et al.* and the Transportation Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

H.Con.Res. 298 expresses the condolences of Congress to the state and people of Florida for the losses suffered as a result of recent wildfires. In addition, the resolution lauds the heroic efforts of firefighters in Florida and from across the nation who traveled to the state to assist state and local officials in battling the fires. The resolution was introduced by Mrs. Brown (FL) *et al.* and was not considered by any committee.

H.Res. 392—Expressing the Importance of Japanese-American Relations expresses the sense of the House that Japan, because of its economic and technological achievements and democratic political system, should enhance its alliance with the U.S. and raise its position of regional partnership by urgently: (1) undertaking broader and faster deregulation of its economy; (2) opening its distribution system to eliminate exclusionary and discriminatory business practices that limit imports and stifle economic growth and competition; (3) honoring and implementing its bilateral trade

agreements with the United States as well as its multilateral trade commitments; (4) addressing its fiscal problems in a manner that does not jeopardize economic recovery, including implementing significant tax cuts and certain steps to solve systemic problems in the banking system; and (5) adopting all appropriate policies to strengthen the Japanese yen. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Bereuter, and the International Relations Committee ordered the resolution reported by voice vote on June 5, 1998. The resolution was also referred to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services, and Ways and Means. On June 25, 1998, the Banking Committee discharged the resolution.

H.Con.Res. 301—Affirming U.S. Commitment to Taiwan expresses the sense of Congress to affirm (1) its longstanding commitment to Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act (*P.L. 96-8*), (2) its expectation that the future status of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means and that the people of both sides of the Taiwan Strait should determine their own future, (3) that the U.S. should make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services, including appropriate ballistic missile defenses, in such quantities as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability, and (4) its strong support of appropriate membership for Taiwan in international financial institutions and other international organizations. Finally, the resolution urges the president, once again, to seek a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat of use of force, against the free people of Taiwan. The resolution was introduced by Mr. DeLay and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 1689—Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act requires all class-action lawsuits involving nationally traded securities to be prosecuted in federal court. The legislation is a result of the 1995 reform law (Private Securities Litigation Reform Act; *P.L. 104-67*) that created national standards to govern such class action suits in an effort to curb frivolous lawsuits. Since the law was enacted, many cases have been filed in state courts in order to avoid the new restrictions. The Senate passed companion legislation, S. 1260, by a vote of 79-21 on May 13, 1998. CBO estimates that enactment of the bill will result in additional Securities Exchange Commission spending of \$347 million over FY 1999 and FY 2000, but that the agency will collect \$375 million in fees in FY 1999 to offset that spending. The bill was introduced by Mr. White and Ms. Eshoo and was reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 8—Border Smog Reduction Act authorizes federal officials at U.S. borders to deny entry into the United States to foreign-plated, high-polluting commuter vehicles. The bill is directed exclusively at “gross-polluting” commuter vehicles, driven by individuals who legally enter the U.S. daily for the purposes of employment or education. It provides adequate opportunity, prior to enforcement, for individuals to have their vehicles brought into compliance with state emission standards. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bilbray et al. and was reported by the Commerce Committee by voice vote.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #19, July 17, 1998.



H.R. 2183—Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act

Floor Situation: The House is scheduled to continue consideration of H.R. 2183 after it completes consideration of the scheduled suspensions. The House has been considering the Shays-Meehan substitute under a modified open rule. The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides an hour of general debate on each substitute. The rule accords priority in recognition to members who have their amendments to the substitutes pre-printed in the *Congressional Record* and prohibits perfecting amendments to the substitutes that include tax or tariff measures. The rule states that if more than one substitute amendment is adopted, the one which receives the greatest number of votes will prevail and be reported back to the House. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Thomas has proposed a unanimous consent agreement that will allow the House to consider an additional 55 amendments to the substitute, each debatable for 10 minutes except for those specified otherwise, in the order specified below.

Summary: H.R. 2183 amends the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA) to (1) ban the use of certain “soft money” by national political parties and federal candidates; (2) increase the aggregate annual limit on contributions made by individuals to political parties; and (3) repeal limitations on the amount of coordinated expenditures that may be made by political parties. The bill indexes contribution limits to inflation beginning in 1999. The bill requires that radio and television communications paid for by third parties be fully disclosed. It revises current Federal Election Commission (FEC) filing requirements to mandate monthly reports by principal campaign committees and other political committees and requires electronic filing for certain reports. The bill also eliminates the “best efforts” exception with respect to obtaining information regarding the occupation or the name of employers of certain individual contributors. The bill was introduced by Hutchinson *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

Views: The Republican leadership has not taken a unified position on the measure or any of the substitutes. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was also unavailable at press time.

Substitutes: The rule makes in order 11 substitute amendments and provides for an hour of general debate on each substitute. The House is expected to continue debating the Shays-Meehan substitute today.

— *Shays-Meehan Substitute* —

The Shays-Meehan substitute eliminates federal and state soft money that influences federal elections. It redefines the concept of “express advocacy,” as it applies to campaign spending by independent groups and party organizations, to include radio and television communications that refer to a clearly identified federal candidate within 60 days of an election or those communications that include unmistakable support for or opposition to a clearly identified federal candidate outside the 60-day period. The substitute permits only hard money to be used for express advocacy ads. The amendment requires candidates to file their FEC reports electronically and requires the FEC to post reports on the Internet.

The substitute requires anyone who makes an independent expenditure of \$1,000 or more within 20 days of an election to file a report with the FEC within 24 hours and permits the FEC to conduct random audits and investigations of campaign committees. The amendment prohibits a campaign committee from depositing a contribution check before all contributor information is complete.

It clarifies restrictions on fundraising on federal property and codifies the Supreme Court's *Beck* decision which requires labor organizations to annually notify employees who pay agency fees that they are eligible to object to the use of their funds for political activities. Finally, the amendment bans political parties from making coordinated expenditures on behalf of those candidates that do not limit their own spending to \$50,000. The amendment contains the language of H.R. 3526, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, which was introduced by Mr. Shays and Mr. Meehan on March 19, 1998. **Staff Contacts: Allison Rak (Shays), x5-5541; Amy Rosenbaum (Meehan), x5-3411**

Amendments: As stated above, Mr. Thomas is expected to ask for unanimous consent to limit consideration to only 55 additional amendments to the substitute. Assuming adoption of the request, it is expected that the House will debate the following 10 amendments today in the order listed below. Unless otherwise specified, each amendment is debatable for 10 minutes. The *Legislative Digest* will provide updated information if it becomes necessary.

Mr. Pickering may offer an amendment to prohibit certain defenses to violating the ban on foreign contributions. Specifically, the amendment states that a defendant in such a case may not claim that he or she did not know that the contribution originated from a foreign national if he or she was aware that the likelihood was high. **Staff Contact: Robert Barbour, x5-5031**

Mr. Smith (MI) may offer an amendment to establish a penalty for violating the prohibition against receiving foreign contributions, which includes a prison term of 5-20 years and a fine of up to \$1 million. **Staff Contact: Paul Borchers, x5-6276**

Mr. DeLay may offer an amendment (#78) to express the sense of Congress that Attorney General Janet Reno should immediately appoint an independent counsel to investigate alleged criminal conduct relating to the financing of the 1996 federal elections. **Staff Contact: Tony Rudy, x5-5951**

Mr. McInnis may offer an amendment to prohibit solicitation to obtain access to Air Force One, Air Force Two, the White House, the Vice President's residence, Marine One, and Marine Two. The amendment institutes penalties for such an offense, including a fine or a prison term of up to one year. **Staff Contact: Kris Larson, x5-4761**

Mr. Paxon may offer an amendment (#95) to require unions to report financial activity under labor laws by functional categories such as contract negotiation and administration, organizing activities, strike activities, political activities, lobbying and promotional activities, and market recovery and job targeting programs. Also, the amendment requires that these reports be posted on the Internet. **Staff Contact: Nydia Bonnin, x5-5265**

Mr. Hefley may offer an amendment (#33) to prohibit *quid pro quo* campaign contributions in exchange for access to Air Force One. **Staff Contact: Rob Smith, x5-4422**

Mr. Hefley may offer an amendment (#34) to state that U.S. taxpayers should be reimbursed for all costs incurred if Air Force One is used by the president, vice president, or cabinet secretary for political fundraising. *Staff Contact: Rob Smith, x5-4422*

Ms. Northup may offer an amendment (#28) to require taxpayers to directly pay the three-dollar presidential check-off contribution, rather than have the designation come out of the Treasury Department's general fund. *Staff Contact: Julianne Carter, x5-5401*

Mr. Goodlatte may offer an amendment (#47), debatable for 40 minutes, to modify the "motor-voter" registration law to confront the wave of illegal voter registration and voting fraud that has been charged with compromising recent elections. Specifically, the amendment repeals the federal mandate requiring states to permit voter registration by mail. The amendment requires voters to provide proof of citizenship and Social Security numbers when registering to vote. Furthermore, the amendment allows states to require voters (with the exception of uniformed servicepersons) to provide photo identification before voting. *Staff Contact: Brett Shogren, x5-5431*

Mr. Wicker may offer an amendment (#116), debatable for 40 minutes, to prohibit the use of White House meals or accommodations in exchange for contributions and support for any political party or campaign for political office. *Staff Contact: Drew Maloney, x5-4306*

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #14, Pt. II, June 1, 1998.



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